

## **Interns and Volunteers Advance Field Projects**

### **Petersburg**

During January 7–11, 2002, six interns from the University of Virginia School of Architecture conducted an architectural survey of Bowling Green, the county seat of Caroline County, under the supervision of DHR staff members Jack Zehmer, Susie Peters, and Marc Wagner. Town Hall served as the base of operations as the survey team received assistance and encouragement from Dennis Donachy and the other town staff. The town paid for the students' room and board during the project. Members of the team were Megan Glynn, Shelly Pellish, Richard Sidebottom, Gwen White, Amanda Davis, and Meng-Tsun Su. The team determined boundaries for the district, completed forms, took photographs of all resources within the district, and created maps.

Three interns worked under the supervision of Capital Region staff for six weeks during the summer. Christina Wiles, a June 2002 graduate of the Mary Washington College Historic Preservation Program, researched and wrote a complete national register nomination for the Prince George Court House Historic District. Stephen James, a doctoral candidate in architectural history at the University of Virginia, took the Bowling Green material generated by the interns in January and wrote a complete national register district nomination. James previously served on a team of University of Virginia interns that conducted a January 2001 survey of the town of Appomattox. Lastly, Astrid Liverman, a University of Virginia intern on the Boydton survey project in January 2000, came in mid-summer to help prepare a book including the Boydton and Clarksville national register nominations.

Volunteers continued a second season of excavations at 18th-century Fort Christanna near Lawrenceville in Brunswick County. The fort was constructed in 1714 at the behest of Governor Alexander Spotswood and had several functions, including serving as a fur-trading outpost, Native American school, and forge. The team, led by Dr. Chris Stevenson and manned by Earthwatch and DHR volunteers, had a highly productive field season. Dr. Stevenson and volunteers completed extensive testing of the interior of the five-sided fort. While no interior structures were identified, numerous artifacts were uncovered including wine-bottle glass, kaolin pipe stems, nails, sheet brass, musket shot, and Native American lithics. The team also found several artifacts associated with iron smelting and forging, which Dr. Stevenson has identified as an important component of life at the fort.

The team also tested the site of the Saponi Indian village that is now thought to be located directly north of the fort and across the Meherrin River. Dr. Stevenson and his team uncovered numerous indigenous artifacts associated with the village along with European goods presumably traded with the men stationed at the fort. The archaeologists were also successful in defining the boundaries of the site. This was an exciting accomplishment, as archaeologists have unsuccessfully searched for the site of the village since the early 1980s. Excavations will continue at the fort for the next several years.

## **Winchester**

The department's Winchester office has benefited significantly from the volunteer efforts of Helen Lee Fletcher and John Lewis. Both undertook research and helped to prepare a National Register nomination for the Opequon Historic District in Frederick County. Lewis provided photographs of the district's resources. Fletcher wrote the complete nomination for the Frederick County Courthouse. The courthouse is currently undergoing renovation by the county.

## **Portsmouth**

DHR's Portsmouth office received extensive assistance from Archeological Society of Virginia Nansemond Chapter members Paul Sadler, Bill and Mary Lou Gillenwaters, and Lee Lockamy in conducting a one-day archaeological test excavation at the Battery Park site in Isle of Wight County. The Battery Park site was targeted for investigation by the Portsmouth office because surface collections had suggested that it might date to the Contact period. The Zuniga map of 1608 indicated a Warraskoyack settlement in the general vicinity of the Battery Park site on the Pagan River. Thanks to the ASV volunteers, the investigation succeeded in documenting the presence of an intact shell midden and recovered ceramics that suggest that the Warraskoyacks interacted closely with the Nansemonds during the Contact period.

The Battery Park site investigation is part of a long-term project by DHR on Protohistoric/Contact period Powhatan sites in the James River drainage. As the project continues, the department hopes that ceramic samples obtained will help advance a better understanding of the origins of thousands of Contact period Native American ceramics being discovered in the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities' ongoing excavation of the early-17th-century James Fort at Jamestown.

## **Roanoke**

Radford University student Charles Grubbs served as an intern in the Roanoke office from May to July, thereby fulfilling his last requirement for a Bachelor of History degree. He made significant contributions to the preparation of a National Register nomination for the Captain James Moore Homestead Archaeological Site in Tazewell County, and assisted in field work and detailed photo documentation related to the preparation of several other nomination reports. Elizabeth Paull, a retired high school history teacher and member of the Archeological Society of Virginia, provided assistance to the Roanoke Regional Office by volunteering more than 160 hours in collections processing and management.

## **Richmond**

At the central office in Richmond, Alison Dolan began working with Public Relations Specialist Deborah Woodward after graduating from the University of Richmond with a Bachelor of Arts in English and Political Science in May 2002. During her time at DHR,

Dolan has written a number of articles for the department's newsletter, Web site, and *Virginia Review* magazine. She serves as an assistant editor.

Irina Cortez, a history major at Tennessee State University in Nashville who is planning to embark on a career as a high school history teacher, received an internship through the Student Conservation Association to work on DHR's Virginia Women's History initiative. Cortez prepared a forthcoming article for *Notes on Virginia* on the Occoquan Workhouse in Fairfax, where women suffragists were imprisoned in 1917 for picketing the White House. She also undertook primary research on the history of the event in the archives and library of the Virginia Historical Society and the Library of Virginia.

Barrow Wheary, a junior at St. Christopher's School in the city of Richmond, fulfilled an academic requirement by undertaking research in DHR's archives to compile a chronology of the Green Springs preservation in the early 1970s. The controversy, which erupted with disclosure of plans to build a state diagnostic center in the Green Springs area of Louisa County, is an important early chapter in the history of Virginia's state historic preservation office.

